

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00

ERDA-05 EUR-12 H-02 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /107 W

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R 111000Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3925

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE TO RATIFY NPT

REF: IAEA VIENNA 9306

1. GEOFFREY YU, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT MFA, INFORMED DCM NOVEMBER 10 CABINET HAS APPROVED RATIFICATION OF NPT, AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAS SIGNED INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION. HE SAID THAT BEFORE THESE INSTRUMENTS COULD BE DEPOSITED GOS WOULD HAVE TO SIGN SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA. THIS WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY, BUT HE ASSUMED IT WOULD BE APPROVED AND INSTRUMENTS DEPOSITED DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS. YU RATHER POINTEDLY NOTED THAT SINGAPORE'S ACTION WOULD MEAN THAT INDONESIA WOULD BE THE ONLY ASEAN COUNTRY WHICH HAD NOT RATIFIED NPT.

2. ASKED WHY GOS HAD FINALLY DECIDED TO RATIFY AFTER SUCH A LONG DELAY, YU REPLIED THAT SOME MONTHS AGO "A CONSCIENTIOUS OFFICER" IN THE MINISTRY HAD REVIEWED ALL THE MULTILATERAL CONVENTIONS THE GOS HAD SIGNED AND FAILED TO RATIFY. THIS OFFICER CONCLUDED
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THAT THE REASONS FOR DELAYING RATIFICATION OF SOME OF THESE

CONVENTIONS WERE NOT COMPELLING AND PERSUADED THE MINISTRY THAT THE GOS SHOULD RATIFY THEM. YU NOTED THAT CABINET HAD ALSO APPROVED THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION BANNING THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE, BUT THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. HE FELT SURE THESE WOULD ALSO BE SIGNED AND DEPOSITED WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

3. COMMENT: DURING PAST FOUR YEARS, EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED MFA SEVERAL TIMES URGING RATIFICATION OF NPT AND HAS ALWAYS RECEIVED STOCK RESPONSE THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER STUDY. UK HICOM BELIEVED DELAY WAS CAUSED BY LACK OF PERSONNEL IN MFA AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO DEAL WITH SUCH PROBLEMS. EMBASSY ASSUMED GOS WAS DELIBERATELY DRAGGING ITS HEELS AND INTENDED TO DELAY RATIFICATION UNTIL ITS MOST POWERFUL NEIGHBOR, INDONESIA, RATIFIED THE TREATY. GOS ACTION TO MOVE AHEAD MAY HAVE BEEN INITIALLY INSTIGATED BY THE CONSCIENTIOUS MFA OFFICER'S REVIEW, BUT THE DECISION TO RATIFY, AS WELL AS THE PREVIOUS LONG DELAY, HAVE BEEN ALMOST CERTAINLY THE PRODUCT OF CAREFUL CALCULATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. THE DECISION TO RATIFY PROBABLY REFLECTS IN PART THE CURRENT EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA, AND ALSO GOS WISDOM IN RECOGNIZING THAT RETENTION OF THE NUCLEAR WARFARE OPTION DOES NOT PROVIDE REAL SECURITY FOR SINGAPORE OVER THE LONG RUN.
HOLDRIDGE

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